

JĀZEPS VĪTOLS' MATERIALS IN THE "RUSSIAN COMPOSERS' AND MUSICIANS' SUPPORT CURATOR COUNCIL" ARCHIVE (ST. PETERSBURG CONSERVATORY MANUSCRIPT DIVISION)

Vladimir Somov

Summary

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Jāzeps Vītols – a student of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, and a close friend of Alexander Glazunov and Anatoly Lyadov – was also a full member of the Mitrofan Belyayev circle. Therefore, it is not a coincidence that, in agreement with Belyayev's last will and testament, when the *Russian Composers' and Musicians' Support Curator Council* was established in 1904, Vītols was mentioned as Lyadov's deputy and, in 1914, after Lyadov's death, Vītols assumed his role.

The archive materials stored in the St. Petersburg State Conservatory Scientific Research Manuscript Division reflect the diverse work of the Council – organising and financing Russian symphonic music concerts, selecting winners and presenting the yearly Mikhail Glinka Award, supporting the Chamber Music society, managing the Belyayev publishing house, etc. The name of Jāzeps Vītols can be found in many documents and council meeting minutes, reports and financial documents. The collection holds the composer's correspondence – more than 100 documents – dated from 1903 (a letter to Belyayev) to 1918. These are Vītols' letters to the Council and copies of the Council's letters to the composer, as well as two significant correspondences with the Council's secretaries – Fyodor Ivanovich Groes (in German) and Angelika Karlovna Hermann (in Russian).

A few of the Council's letters inform the artist about him being awarded the Glinka Award. Still, the epistolary heritage mainly discusses the organisation of concerts of Vītols' works, composition publishing (including the sending of manuscripts to St. Petersburg and Leipzig, music printing, proofreading, artistic design of the publications, pricing, translation expenses, salaries, etc.) This business correspondence also mentions the names of Rimsky-Korsakov, Lyadov, Glazunov, Nikolayev, and other contemporaries.

Altogether, the archive documents of the St. Petersburg Conservatory and Vītols' preserved correspondence material in Riga (including letters from Franz Schäffer, and others), reflect in great detail the work of the Curator Council.